

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this patent application, as previously amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-26 have been rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 USC 251; and Claims 1-26 have been rejected as being unpatentable over either Japanese ('310) or Japanese ('570) in view of Wiener et al., Lynch et al., and Falk et al. under 35 USC 103. Claims 1-3 and 5-26 remain active in this patent application.

In connection with the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-26 as being based upon a defective reissue declaration, it is respectfully submitted to the examiner that the reissue

application has in fact been signed by the sole assignee of the entire undivided interest in the patent, and that all assignment documents, conveying title from the original patentee, through the intermediary assignees, and finally to the current sole assignee of the entire undivided interest in the patent, have, to the best of the knowledge of the undersigned attorney of record, been previously submitted in connection with this application and have been properly recorded.

It is also noted that the claims of the original patent have not in fact been broadened as previously submitted.

It is additionally noted in connection with the drawing requirements, that an informal drawing, schematically illustrating the outwardly projecting flames, and the convergence of the same toward the axis of the member to be heated/soldered, was in fact submitted with the amendment

filed on November 1, 2000 in response to the outstanding office action dated June 1, 2000. Upon the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant will submit a formal drawing illustrating the outwardly projecting flames.

In connection with the rejection of the noted claims based upon the prior art of record, it is reiterated to the Examiner that the present invention as currently claimed patentably defines over all of the art of record and particularly over either Japanese ('310) or Japanese ('570) in view of Wiener et al., Lynch et al., and Falk et al.. More particularly, independent Claims 1, 9, 13, 16, and 20 have been previously amended so as to set forth the fact that in accordance with the present invention, the arcuate extent of the tip head is claimed as extending angularly between terminal ends disposed about an axis through an angle of at least about 240°, and a maximum angle of about 280°, so as to facilitate the insertion of the member to be heated into the interior of the tip head through a side portion of the tip head. In addition, the claims recite the fact that the outlet end of the tubular stem is connected to a portion inter-

mediate the terminal ends of the arcuate tip head, and lastly, that two of the flame orifices are disposed at positions which are immediately adjacent to the terminal ends of the arcuate tip head so that together with the third orifice, a substantially complete circumferential flame array for substantially completely heating the entire circumferential extent of the member can be achieved with a minimum of three flame orifices as clearly shown in the left side of **FIGURE 2** of the patent drawings. It is respectfully submitted that these features, taken together so as to achieve such heating of the entire circumferential extent of the member with a minimum of three flame orifices, are not in fact disclosed within any of the **PRIOR ART** of record, nor would such be obvious from the teachings of such **PRIOR ART** of record, and it is therefore respectfully submitted further that Claims 1, 6, 9, 13, and 20, as well as the remaining claims of the patent and this patent application patentably define over all of such **PRIOR ART** of record.

More particularly, or stated in other words, what the presently claimed invention has been capable of achiev-

ing is the heating of the entire circumferential extent of the member to be treated with a minimum of, or only, three flame orifices. Obviously, as disclosed within Japanese ('310), as seen, for example, within **FIGURE 2**, numerous flame orifices 2, far more than only three, are utilized. Similarly, as can be appreciated from **FIGURES 1 and 2** of Japanese ('570), four flame nozzles are employed, whereas, for example, within **FIGURE 10**, many orifices are disclosed at 51. Similar multiple nozzles are also shown in **FIGURES 15 and 16**. Similar remarks also hold true for Wiener et al. wherein, as the examiner has noted in connection with **FIGURE 5**, multiple, that is, more than three, flames are utilized. Still yet further, Lynch et al., and Nis et al. likewise disclose multiple flame jets and do not at all discuss the achievement of the circumferential heating of a central or axial member utilizing only three flame jets or orifices. Falk et al. has been cited by the examiner for other features of the invention and is submitted to not be particularly pertinent for the present discussion.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully

submitted that the claims as submitted are in fact proper, that the rejection of the claims, under the various grounds of rejection as noted above, should be withdrawn, and that the claims of this patent application are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to this effect is therefore now anticipated and awaited.

Respectfully Submitted,
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